Happy November Parents and Families!

We hope this newsletter finds you well as our semester continues to fly by here at UConn! It seems like just yesterday that your students were moving into the residence halls and we are now into November and the tail-end of the semester! As folks gather together for Thanksgiving Recess we thought we would help you understand some of the typical changes you may see in your student.

- Your student has almost completed their fall semester and may come home very tired. Students have finished midterms a few weeks ago and are still struggling with sleep and managing their academics. Give them some time to recuperate and understand that coming home is a transition. Also talk with them about school. Ask them about classes, their residence hall experiences and any clubs and organizations they have joined.

- Your student has left home and may return home more independent. Expectations of what that means for both the student and the parents or families may need to be communicated when they come home.

- Although you are so excited to have your student home for the holidays, they may spend more time sleeping and hanging out with local friends than spending time at home with the family. This is typical for college students and you may need to

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set a schedule of expectations for each time they return so that there is a balance that meets your needs.

Some things to keep in mind when students return to UConn from Thanksgiving break:

• Prepare them to bring warm coats, gloves, sweaters and blankets. The weather in Storrs, CT is typically colder than the rest of CT and very windy.
• Remind your student if they get sick, they should go to Student Health and Wellness or see their primary care physician.
• If they get sick and they need to miss classes for extended periods of time, please have them contact our Dean of Students Office who will communicate with their faculty (860-486-3426).
• Finals are around the corner, have them start preparing for this now so that they are not studying last minute.

We are excited to have your student back with us and we hope that you have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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Housing Accommodations for 2020-2021
Randy Shannon, Housing Assignments Specialist

Does your student have a health/medical condition or disability that could be impacted by their living environment?

The 2020-2021 Housing Application will be available on December 1, 2019, and it is already time for students to begin thinking about their housing plans for next year. Students who need housing accommodations for health/medical conditions or disabilities are encouraged to register with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) by the second week of Spring semester classes, Tuesday, February 4, to ensure that they are able to complete the process prior to selecting a housing assignment.

Students who have been approved by the CSD for housing accommodations will have their approvals communicated directly to Residential Life by the CSD. Residential Life works in partnership with the CSD to ensure that all students with housing accommodations receive housing assignments that meet their approved accommodation needs, pending availability.

Students can begin the registration process by visiting the CSD’s website at http://csd.uconn.edu
Transferring, Going Abroad, or Potentially Not Returning to UConn Storrs for the Spring Semester?

Jen O’Neill, Housing Assignment Specialist and Christina Gray, Policy and Process Coordinator

If your student is not returning to the Storrs campus for spring semester, they will need to move out all of their belongings and turn in their keys by Monday, December 16. If your student’s spring plans are still up in the air, we strongly recommend they consider taking all of their belongings home, turning in their keys, and checking out prior to leaving for winter break. This will reduce their need to return to campus during the winter break.

If your student learns they are not returning for the spring semester during winter break, please encourage them to check their email for directions about how to schedule a check-out appointment during the break period. Students will need to return to campus to gather their belongings during business hours within 5 business days of their housing cancellation. Their room will likely be reassigned to another student for January move-in and it is essential their items are removed during the winter break to allow time for proper cleaning of the space. If you or your student have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at livingoncampus@uconn.edu.

Winter Break Housing

Rachel Hartley, Housing Assignments Specialist

All students who plan on staying on campus at any point during Winter Break, December 16, 2019 -January 17, 2020 must fill out a Winter Break Housing Application.

Students who wish to live on campus over Winter Break must have both a Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 Assignment and must meet one of the following qualifications: live in a 9 month area, enrolled in a winter intersession course, working for the University, academic internship or affiliated with a team or University sponsored program.

Students remaining on-campus during Winter Break will have limited access to Residential Life staff.

Students must adhere to all University policies during Winter Break. Please refer to the Housing Contract for information regarding specific policies. Students may be asked to leave housing if policies are violated.

Remaining on campus during a time when classes are not in session is a privilege, and thus students are expected to uphold a high level of responsibility while staffing is limited.

Overnight guests will not be permitted during Winter Recess, due to limited staffing and specific billing policies.

For full Winter Break Housing Information, Rates and Policies please visit our website at: https://reslife.uconn.edu/winter-break-housing/.
Supporting Your Students: Resources for Parents

If you are aware of a student who is presenting emergency or imminent threat of harm to themselves or others, you should call UConn Police by dialing 911. You will need to have information available such as who, what, where and when should follow instructions provided by the UConn Police Department.

**Student Care Team** - If you have a concern about a student who you perceive to be threatening, harming or disruptive, report the concern to Student Care Team through the online referral.

UConn has suicide prevention resource information available which would be helpful to share with your students. Specifically UConn has the following resources:

- **Student Health and Wellness - Mental Health** - 860-486-4705 operates a 24/7 On-Call service (during the academic year) for mental health crises, while anyone immediate and life-threatening emergencies should contact 911 right away.
- **Student Health and Wellness -Medical Care** - 860-486-4700 - 24/7 Advice Nurse
- **Police Department** - 860-486-4800 (non-emergency number) - Call 911 to access 24/7 Emergency Services

Off campus resources are:

- **The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
  [https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/) - A free, 24/7 confidential service that can provide people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, or those around them, with support, information, and local resources.
- **Crisis Text Line**: [https://www.crisistextline.org/](https://www.crisistextline.org/) - This free text-message service provides 24/7 support to those in crisis. Text 741-741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor right away.
- **The Veterans Crisis Line and Military Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 Press 1**: [https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/) - The Veterans Crisis Line and Military Crisis Line connect veterans and service members in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

**Dean of Students Office** - Additionally if you have students who are struggling with academic or general student life concerns a referral to the Dean of Students Office may be appropriate. The staff in the Dean of Students Office work to help students determine which campus resources they may wish to access. Students without an appointment may access the services at the Dean of Students on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 1:00pm-4:00pm. To make an appointment outside of walk-in hours, students should stop by the office located 203 Wilbur Cross or call 860-486-3426.
Closing Time: What to Expect for December Closing

Willie Garcia, Assistant Director Residence Education

FALL & WINTER RECESS EXPECTATIONS

ALL RESIDENTS NEED TO ENSURE OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN LEAVING FOR THE BREAK:

• Leave the room clean (all trash must be thrown out). Students in rooms left in a condition which poses a threat to health and safety standards will be required to return to campus to resolve the condition in which they left their room. Failure to do so will result in University staff cleaning the room and the student being billed accordingly.

• **DO NOT TURN OFF THE HEAT.** Set the heater to snowflake to prevent the pipes from freezing.

• It is recommended that you remove all valuables from your room.

• If you need to leave any valuables items in your room, it is recommended that they be placed on shelves or areas other than the floor. The University is not responsible for any personal belongings that are left in residence halls during recess periods.

• **TRADITIONAL HALLS:** Unplug all electrical equipment. This includes mini-refrigerators which must be unplugged, defrosted, cleaned, and perishable items removed. Residential Life staff will be opening refrigerators to ensure compliance with this expectation.

• **APARTMENTS:** Unplug all electrical equipment. *Do not unplug your kitchen refrigerator.*

• Fish tanks are the only item that may be left plugged in.

• Windows must be closed and locked. It is recommended that you lower your window shades if you live on the 1st floors so people cannot look into the room.

• Turn off lights.

• Lock your door as you leave.

*ALL ROOMS WILL BE ENTERED AND CHECKED BY RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ABOVE GUIDELINES AND FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS*

GENERAL REMINDERS:

1. Residence Halls close on Monday, December 16th, 2019 at 12:00 pm
2. 24-Hour Quiet Hours begin Friday December 6th, 2019 at 10:00 pm
3. Students are asked to leave 24 hours after their last final.
4. If you are returning to your same room for spring 2020 you do not need to check out or remove any belongings from your room.
5. All students who wish to stay on campus during the winter recess must apply on their MyHousing

VACANCY IN THE ROOM:
All residents whose rooms have a vacancy need to ensure that the room is ready for a new roommate. This means a visibly clean and empty/open bed, desk, dresser, and closet space for each vacancy. You will receive a new roommate for Spring 2020.
Overall Learning at UConn:
The Residential Learning Model (RLM)

Dr. Ralphel Smith, Director of Educational Initiatives

The Residential Learning Model, also known as the RLM, within the Department of Residential Life is an intentional way of promoting learning in college and university residence life programs. The RLM is a very specific approach to structuring learning outcomes. It is important to acknowledge that there are various ways to engage and get to know students not just through programming. The facilitation of the RLM presents multiple ways which may be more accommodating to all.

With the RLM in its third year the Residential Life program has consistently over the past years taken a curricular approach to student engagement, connection, and education in residence halls. UConn now relies upon various ways to guide student engagement and residential education, such as through passive education bulletin boards, formal and informal one on one conversations between RAs and individual residents, community activities on a floor, etc. Our purpose as higher education professionals is to have a significant impact on students’ learning outside of the classroom.

The RLM is about supporting the learning, growth, and development that is happening in the classroom for our students. The RLM has an educational priority, which is a statement that describes the overarching outcome of the educational efforts of Residential Life. At UConn, our educational priority is, “As a result of living on campus, students will grow personally, interpersonally, and intellectually.”

In Residential Life, we want to help our students be successful, learn to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds, and make good decisions while in college and after college when they move into their future careers as professionals and as they become citizens of the world.
Meningitis Vaccination Compliance

The State of Connecticut requires that any student living in on-campus housing be vaccinated against meningitis. All on-campus residents missing meningitis vaccination information were notified in September and given instructions on how to obtain compliance.

Spring 2020 residents who are non-compliant with this requirement, who submit a 2020-2021 housing application by the deadline (January 20, 2020), may not be eligible to participate in the online room selection process.

Students can view the vaccination information that Student Health and Wellness has on file at http://myhealth.uconn.edu > My Profile > Immunization History.

All vaccination questions should be directed to Student Health and Wellness. Residential Life is unable to accept medical information.

2020-2021 Current Student Housing Application

Eileen McNamara, Housing Assignments Specialist

The 2020-2021 Housing Application will be available for students in their MyHousing portal on December 1, 2019. This application will be for current UConn students to apply for housing for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year and will allow eligible students to participate in room selection within MyHousing during the Spring 2020 semester. Students will be able to view all available spaces during their selection process and to pair up with other students to create a roommate group and select housing together.

In early December, Housing Selection Central will also be available on the Residential Life website for students and families to visit and review information related to housing selection. As selection draws closer, we will share tutorials, infographics, and other data related to the number of applicants and the number of available rooms to help students begin planning their selection process.

What can I do to help my student?

1. You can encourage your student to follow our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @UConnResLife) so that they receive tips and updates as we get closer to selection!
2. Talk to your student about their selection plans and encourage them to consider contingency plans if their specific room type or location is no longer available when it is their turn to select housing.
3. Have them email livingoncampus@uconn.edu if they have questions! We have a lot of frequently asked questions listed on Housing Selection Central and we continue to update this resource as the selection begins, but we want all of our students to feel supported and excited to select housing for the upcoming year!
Important Dates

**December 1st**
2020-2021 housing app available; room and roommates selected online in Spring 2020

**December 16th**
Halls close at noon for Fall 2019; students can request to remain over Winter Recess for additional fees

**January 18th - 19th**
Halls open for Spring 2020

**January 20th**
2020-2021 housing app deadline for returning residents; deadline for Spring 2020 residents to turn in meningitis vaccination verification to Student Health and Wellness

**January 21st**
First day of classes

**March-April 2020**
Spring 2020 residents choose rooms and roommates online for 2020-2021

**March 14th-21st**
Spring Recess (no classes, halls remain open)

**May 11th**
Halls, Suites, Northwood Apts, Mansfield Apts, and Stamford Housing close at noon for Spring 2020

**May 31st**
Hilltop & Charter Oak Apts close for Spring 2020

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We Hope That You’re Enjoying the Fall!

We are here for you and your students if you have any questions!

Contact Information

Department of Residential Life
Whitney Hall, ground floor
(860) 486-2926
livingoncampus@uconn.edu
http://reslife.uconn.edu

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Find us on Social Media!

www.facebook.com/UConnResLife

@UConnResLife on Twitter and Instagram

We encourage all residents to use #LiveonandLearn to showcase the benefits of living on campus!